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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by Foundation for the Child and the Family, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

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Statement

The "Foundation for the Child and the Family" (Greece), under its special consultative status with ECOSOC, responding to the invitation and encouragement of the NGO Section/DESA concerning the presentation of NGO views to the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (New York, June 2005), undertook the initiative of the composition of a Declaration and a Report regarding the UN Millennium Development Goals in relation to the child and the family.

The Declaration and the Report will be based on the views and recommendations of several Greek NGOs and institutes, working in various fields of action relevant to children and families, that were invited by the "Foundation for the Child and the Family" to participate in this project and to co-operate in a joint effort expressing the views of the Greek civil society.

The issues that will be raised at the Declaration and the Report will deal with the UN Millennium Goals in relation to the children and families such as poverty, education, health, protection and welfare of children and families, of children with special needs, of children suffering from cancer, homeless children, etc.

The Declaration will be signed by all the NGO members of this project in a Meeting on June 6th 2005 in Athens and it will be submitted to the ECOSOC.

On June 7th 2005, the "Foundation for the Child and the Family" is organizing an event entitled "The UN Millennium Development Goals and the Civil Society" for the presentation of the Declaration and the Report as well as a presentation of the work of the ECOSOC and the United Nations concerning the Millennium Development Goals. The event has been put under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will be attended by Greek Ministers, representatives of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, Parliamentarians, representatives of the Academic world and Institutions, journalists, representatives of the private sector, etc.

The initiative of the Foundation for the composition of the Declaration and the Report as well as its public presentation event aim at: a) the contribution of the Foundation to the important work of the ECOSOC towards the "High Level Segment" and the "Millennium +5 Summit", b) the development of a closer co-operation among several Greek NGO's, institutes and other organizations on a joint effort expressing both the views of the Greek Civil Society and their recommendations through their expertise in various fields concerning children and families, c) the sensitization of the decision makers and the Greek public opinion on the efforts for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, d) the further information about the priorities and the work of the ECOSOC and the UN towards the sustainable development worldwide.